Quarterly Journal of the
Central States Numismatic Society

the centinel

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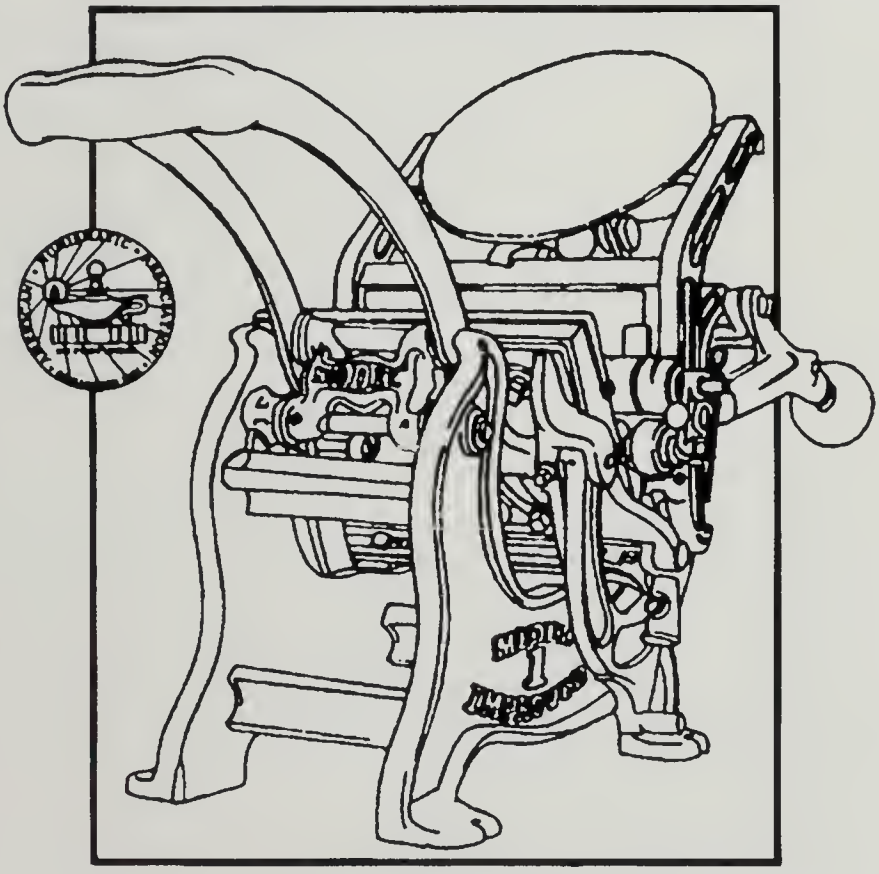

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The Centinel

Fall 2000
Volume 48, Number 3

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Fall 2000 Volume 48, Number 3

In This Issue

Features

President's Message 3
Secretary's Message 4
Board Meeting Minutes 11

Articles

Kissi Kilindi Money 15
Robert D. Leonard, Jr.

A VIP Tour of the Denver Mint 23
Leon A. Saryan

A Golden Door Stop 31
Dr. Walt Ostromecki, NLG

Notices

Membership Applications 9
Future CSNS Conventions 21
Club News 22
62nd Anniversary Convention Exhibit Application ..... Centerfold
Show Calendar 26
Exhibit Awards 28
CSNS Scholarship Awards to ANA Summer Seminar 34
Fall Convention Photo Highlights 36
Advertising Rates 42
CSNS Advertisers 43

About the Cover

The Centinel has been recognized as the outstanding regional numismatic publication by the American Numismatic Association. *The Centinel* has received this award six consecutive years and is edited by Karen and Jim Jach.

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Send address changes to: ..... The Secretary
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Presidential Commentary

W. Ray Lockwood

On the road again! With apologies to Cliff Mishler, Fran and I have been traveling to coin shows and giving talks to a variety of groups to represent Central States and to spread the word about our great hobby.

Our first stop was the record-breaking ANA Convention in Philadelphia. What a show! Attendance was fantastic! Most of the non-commercial booths ran out of handouts early on! Business was booming everywhere on the bourse floor! Lots of first-time coin show attendees were in evidence. We sold a few memberships, peddled booths for our Indy show and made many new friends. We shared booth space with the world's first Internet-based coin club, The Worldwide Bimetallic Collectors Club, and its founder, the enthusiastic Martin Peeters of The Netherlands.

Our second stop was the second annual Buckeye Classic in Columbus, Ohio. The organizers of this Labor Day weekend event are an enthusiastic and hard working crew. They are already gearing up for our Columbus convention in 2002. 1 gave a short talk at their dealers' dinner and paid tribute to the late Raphael Ellenbogen who was the driving force behind bringing Central States to Columbus. We look forward to working with Evan Brill, Bill Kamb, Mike Wilson and all their co-workers.

In between these two shows, Jerry and Helen Lebo, Fran and I journeyed to Carmel, Indiana, an affluent suburb of Indianapolis, to give a talk at their beautiful, new library. Jerry gave a concise overview of coin collecting with a showcase of type material. I spoke about my service on the Indiana State Quarter Design Committee. I have given this talk several times to service clubs and senior citizen groups.

All of the above appearances have been enjoyable and easy to make for the simple fact that our hobby is alive and well! This is due in no small part to the State Quarter Program. This highly visible and successful U.S. Mint venture has brought many new people into coin collecting. NOW is the time to recruit new CSNS members. NOW is the time to spread the word about our great hobby.

I encourage all Central States members to give talks to local clubs, schools, libraries and other organizations. These groups are always looking for good programs; so, why not share the enthusiasm of our "King of Hobbies." We've got a lot to talk about!

See you ALL in Indy the first weekend in April, 2001 ... experience Hoosier Hospitality first-hand!

W. Ray Lockwood
President

A Message from the Secretary

Jerry Lebo

Congratulations are in order for Centinel Editors Jim and Karen Jach and CSNS Governors Bill Brandimore, Don Charters and Glen Jorde. For the sixth straight year the Centinel won first place in the ANA regional publication contest. Charters won the Medal of Merit at the ANA convention in Philadelphia, while Brandimore was named Outstanding District Delegate. Jorde recently was elected president of the Professional Currency Dealers Association.

Likewise, congratulations to CSNS Governor Kermit Wasmer and wife Donna for receiving the Numismatic Ambassador Award during our Harvey, Ill., convention. That brings to 10 the number of current CSNS officers who have been so honored by Numismatic News.

We also gave Fran Lockwood (another Numismatic Ambassador) the CSNS Medal of Merit, the highest award given by our society, for her work in handling exhibits at our conventions.

Closer to home, my wife, Helen Carmody-Lebo (still another Numismatic Ambassador), resigned as ANA vice president because several ailments made it impossible for her to travel to association conventions this year. Helen continues to rebound from these physical problems. She will decide later this year if she will re-enter the ANA political arena and run for president in 2001. As of now, it looks as though she will.

Our fall Board of Governors meeting was conducted during the Harvey, Ill., convention early in September.

The board approved fall conventions for the next few years: 2001 in Dearborn, Mich.; 2002 in Sharonville, Ohio (Cincinnati suburb) and 2003 back in Harvey or another Chicago suburb.

Also approved were ANA summer seminar scholarships for Quent Hansen of Omaha, Neb., Bob Hatfield of Taylor, Mich., and YN Evan Perrault of Colgate, Wis. We normally award two scholarships, but this time there are three because of money donated by Krause Publications as a share of income from the CSNS Minneapolis convention program it printed.

The board approved the concept of helping local member clubs acquire numismatic books for libraries. The details will be worked out in the coming months.

At my suggestion, the board began the process of making the post of secretary-treasurer an appointive one, rather than elective. This will require approval of the entire membership during a referendum, probably during the 2002 election of officers. This would give our governing board control over who handles the society's money and records.

U.S. Mint Director Jay Johnson made a commitment to appear at the Harvey convention. After we duly publicized his scheduled talk, one of his aides called less than a month before the show and cancelled, without explanation.

I couldn't help but wonder if he backed out after being told we charge government mints for booth space. The U.S. Mint inquired about a booth for the Minneapolis convention earlier this year. I explained the policy and never heard back from them.

The policy simply states that if a mint is selling a product, it is, in effect, competing with the dealers who have paid for bourse space. Several foreign mints have paid for booths during the past few years, so why shouldn't the U.S. Mint, considered by some as the "world's largest coin dealer," pay as well?

In any event, it is unlikely you'll be seeing the U.S. Mint or the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, for that matter, at one of our conventions in the foreseeable future. We stopped inviting the BEP a few years ago after it developed its own contract that makes the host organization responsible for anything lost or stolen.

We're off and running for the 62nd anniversary convention next April in Indianapolis. Bourse applications have been mailed. Dealers who haven't received one can obtain same by contacting me at 219-753-2489.

Kevin Foley is again general chairman, while Fran Lockwood repeats as exhibit chair. Hubby Ray is CSNS president. Their phone number is 765-664-6520.

Incidentally, President and Mrs. Lockwood have picked up some of yours truly's slack. With Helen's health problems, we've been unable to travel much this year. Ray and Fran represented CSNS at the ANA convention in Philadelphia and the Ohio State convention in Columbus over Labor Day weekend. They also plan to attend the Michigan State show at Dearborn late in November.

MSNS will be the host for the 2001 fall CSNS convention at the Dearborn site. More on that later.

I'm sorry to report the death during June of Frank J. Russell of Indianapolis. Frank held membership number 2952 in Central States. Frank rarely missed the major conventions. He was an exhibitor and exhibit judge for ANA, a former Indiana State numismatic Association governor and a former editor for the Indianapolis Coin Club.

The best of show exhibit award will be named in Frank's memory at the 2001 spring convention. The award for the best display by a first-time exhibitor will be named in memory of former CSNS Governor Peter Phillips. As has become tradition, such honors are done on a one-time basis.

Dues notices are going into the mail shortly. In fact, as slow as bulk mail can be in delivering The Centinel, it's possible you've already received your notice.

As you may know, Centinels and other mailings that are undeliverable are returned to my post office box. These include Centinels that are not forwarded to a new address because they're mailed bulk. In early July an undeliverable Centinel was returned. Upon further examination, it turned out to be an issue mailed more than a year earlier. Speedy often is a word overlooked in the U.S. Postal Service's dictionary.

There was a suggestion to offer discounts on dues if paid years ahead. Unfortunately, CSNS would lose money on the deal, assuming an average interest rate of 6 percent. Using five years of payment as an example and discounting $1 per year, normal dues of $8 per year would bring in $35 instead of $40. However, the interest earned would be only about $3.50, meaning CSNS would get $38.50 instead of $40 over the five years.

Our apologies to Bobbie Scroggins of Muncie, Ind., the gentleman at the right in a photo on page 43 of the preceding issue of The Centinel. The caption under the photo of third-place exhibit winners at the Minneapolis convention omitted his name.

One final note about the Minneapolis convention. We had an ad in the preceding Centinel asking for bids on a wall clock made in the shape of the state of Minnesota. President Lockwood put in an opening bid of $50. Nobody else bid prior to the Aug. 15 deadline, so Ray now owns the clock.

Jerry Lebo
Secretary-Treasurer

In Memoriam

The Board and membership of the Society join in extending our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the following member who passed away recently.

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The persons named below have applied for membership in the Society. Each applicant will become a member in 30 days, unless a written objection to his or her application is received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to that date.

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8230	Lee Clausing	St. Mary's	OH
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8233	Michael Dennany	Delton	MI
8235	James Garcia	Grand Rapids	MI
8236	Dennis Tarrant	Grand Rapids	MI
8237	Paul R. Hybert	Chicago	IL
8238	Danny Dickman	Lafontaine	IN
8239	James Tremaine	Olathe	KS
8244	Marcus Turner	Avon	IN
8246	Harold Plucienia	Chicago Heights	IL
8253	Walter Losiniecki	Chicago	IL
8254	Charles Palmer	Collumbus	OH
8255	Rita Jene Sledz	Wayne	MI
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8242	Heather Basham	New Albany	IN
8243	Raymond Jaglowicz	Louisville	KY
8245	Justin Miller	Chicago Heights	IL
8247	Gina DeFilippo	Calumet City	IL
8248	Anthony Chigco	Calumet City	IL
8249	Tony DeFilippo	Calumet City	IL
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709	Lincoln Coin Club	Trenton	MI
710	Michael S. Byers	Lake Forest	CA
711	Ed Marusak	Dearborn	MI
712	Frances Lockwood	Marion	IN
714	Michael Paul Schiller	Allouez	WI
715	Donald W. Charters	Wayne	MI
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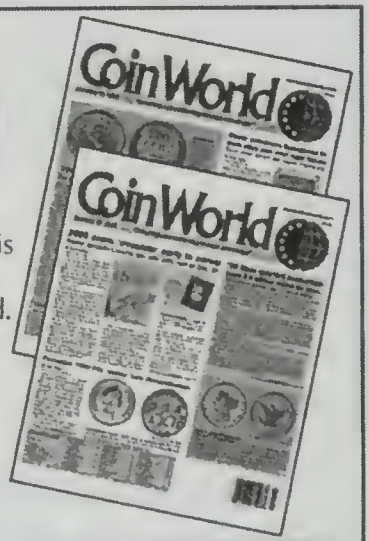

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CSNS Board Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2000 - Harvey, IL

President Ray Lockwood called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., with all members present except Roger Winkelhake and Karen Jach (both excused).

The president thanked the Illinois State Numismatic Association for sponsoring the CSNS fall convention.

Jack Huggins reported the death of the daughter of long-time Illinois activist Jimmy Kaczor. There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

President Lockwood recognized guests, including Rollie Finner, Bruce Perdue, Donna Wasmer, Rita Jene Sledz, Ray Dillard, Barb Mericle, Fran Lockwood, Helen Carmody-Lebo and Joel Edler.

Edler, representing Numismatic News, presented Numismatic Ambassador Awards to Kermit and Donna Wasmer. Kermit Wasmer became the 10th current CSNS board member to receive the award.

Secretary-Treasurer Lebo presented the CSNS Medal of Merit to Fran Lockwood, who has been exhibit chairperson for several conventions. On behalf of her husband, Ray, Fran also received a life membership in CSNS.

The board approved a life membership for Bruce Perdue, who developed and maintains the CSNS Internet web site.

President Lockwood recognized board members Don Charters for winning the ANA Medal of Merit, Bill Brandimore as the ANA's outstanding district delegate and Glen Jorde for being elected president of the Professional Currency Dealers Association.

Bill Brandimore moved and Florence Schook seconded that the minutes of the preceding board meeting be accepted. Approved.

Ed Rothberg moved and Jack Huggins seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Approved.

The secretary's report showed 1,817 current members, up 19 from a year earlier. Paul Padget invited CSNS to use a club table at his Sharonville, Ohio, show. Harry Tileston will represent CSNS at the show.

President Lockwood noted that he and Brian Fanton are being replaced by Harry Tileston and Don Charters as the scholarship committee members.

Tileston, a member of the treasury oversight committee, said they continue looking for the best interest rates on the society's investments.

The president presented co-Editor Jim Jach with the "best regional club publication" award which was given at the ANA convention in Philadelphia. It was the sixth straight year The Centinel has so been honored. Jach said he and wife Karen, the co-editor, are looking for another printer, preferably in the Milwaukee area where they live. There were reproduction problems with the most recent issue, which prompted complaints from several advertisers.

Historian Marv Mericle circulated a partial list of items that are still needed for the archives.

President Lockwood said the Indiana State Numismatic Association will be a host and work dealer registration and the Young Numismatist activities at the CSNS 2001 spring convention in Indianapolis.

Secretary Lebo said General Chairman Kevin Foley has been unable to work out a financial agreement with the Indianapolis Coin Club to perform duties as a co-host, including the handling of local publicity. Lebo said a professional experienced in this area is being hired.

President Lockwood said he and his wife, Fran, attended the Columbus, Ohio show over Labor Day weekend. He said the Ohioans are looking forward to being host for the 2002 CSNS spring convention in Columbus.

Jack Huggins presented a change in rules for judging potential best-of-show exhibits, which comply with changes in ANA rules. He proposed the 2001 best-of-show be named in memory of Frank Russell and that the 2001 first-time exhibitor award be named in memory of former CSNS Governor Peter Phillips. So motioned by Jerry Lebo and seconded by Ed Rothberg. Approved. Jack also said the exhibit committee is working on a plan to create a "people's choice" exhibit award.

Ray Dillard, president of the Michigan State Numismatic Society, said contracts have been signed and work is proceeding for the 2001 CSNS fall convention in Dearborn, Mich.

President Lockwood moved and Marv Mericle seconded that ANA summer seminar scholarships be awarded to Quent Hansen of Omaha, Neb., Bob Hatfield of Taylor, Mich., and YN Evan Perrault of Colgate, Wis. Approved.

Legal Counsel Rob Green said he was not aware of any legal problems with upcoming shows.

There was a discussion about future auctions and conventions. The consensus of the board was to work closely with Heritage Auctions to ensure successful conventions.

President Lockwood suggested CSNS appropriate $1,000 annually to help local member clubs acquire books for libraries. The Education Committee was directed to develop a plan to administer such a program.

Following discussion on clarification of the bylaws regarding telephonic board votes, Legal Counsel Rob Green was instructed to refine the language to include votes by mail as well.

Reporting in the absence of Convention Coordinator and General Chairman Kevin Foley, Secretary Lebo said contracts are in place for Columbus in 2002 and St. Louis in 2003. Kevin is waiting word from the Cincinnati Convention Center about suitable space for a 2004 spring convention.

Jack Huggins, who also is president of the Illinois State Numismatic Association, said a new site is being considered for future ILNA fall shows and that he hopes CSNS will return in the future.

Paul Padget said he would like to host another CSNS fall convention at Sharonville, Ohio, a Cincinnati suburb. Don Charters moved and Florence Schook seconded for CSNS to have fall conventions in 2002 at Sharonville and 2003 in the Chicago area, possibly Tinley Park. Approved. Padget abstained.

The question of whether CSNS should continue to have a Saturday night banquet at its spring conventions was discussed at length. The general consensus was that the banquet has become too expensive and that an awards breakfast would be a suitable replacement. Harry Tileston moved and Marv Mericle seconded to eliminate the banquet in favor of a breakfast effective in 2002. Approved.

Bill Brandimore moved and Glen Jorde seconded that CSNS ask the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis to modify an already signed contract, substituting a breakfast for the banquet at Indianapolis in 2001. Approved.

Secretary-Treasurer Lebo suggested his office be made appointive rather than elective, allowing the board to decide who holds a position that handles many thousands of dollars each year. Following discussion, Glen Jorde motioned and Harry Tileston seconded to begin the process to change the bylaws. Approved. This will require a vote of the membership. The referendum probably will be conducted during the next regular election of officers in 2002.

The board tabled discussion on whether to resume the practice of including return postage on election ballot envelopes.

It was noted that President Lockwood was observing his birthday and Harry Tileston was celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Lebo
Secretary-Treasurer

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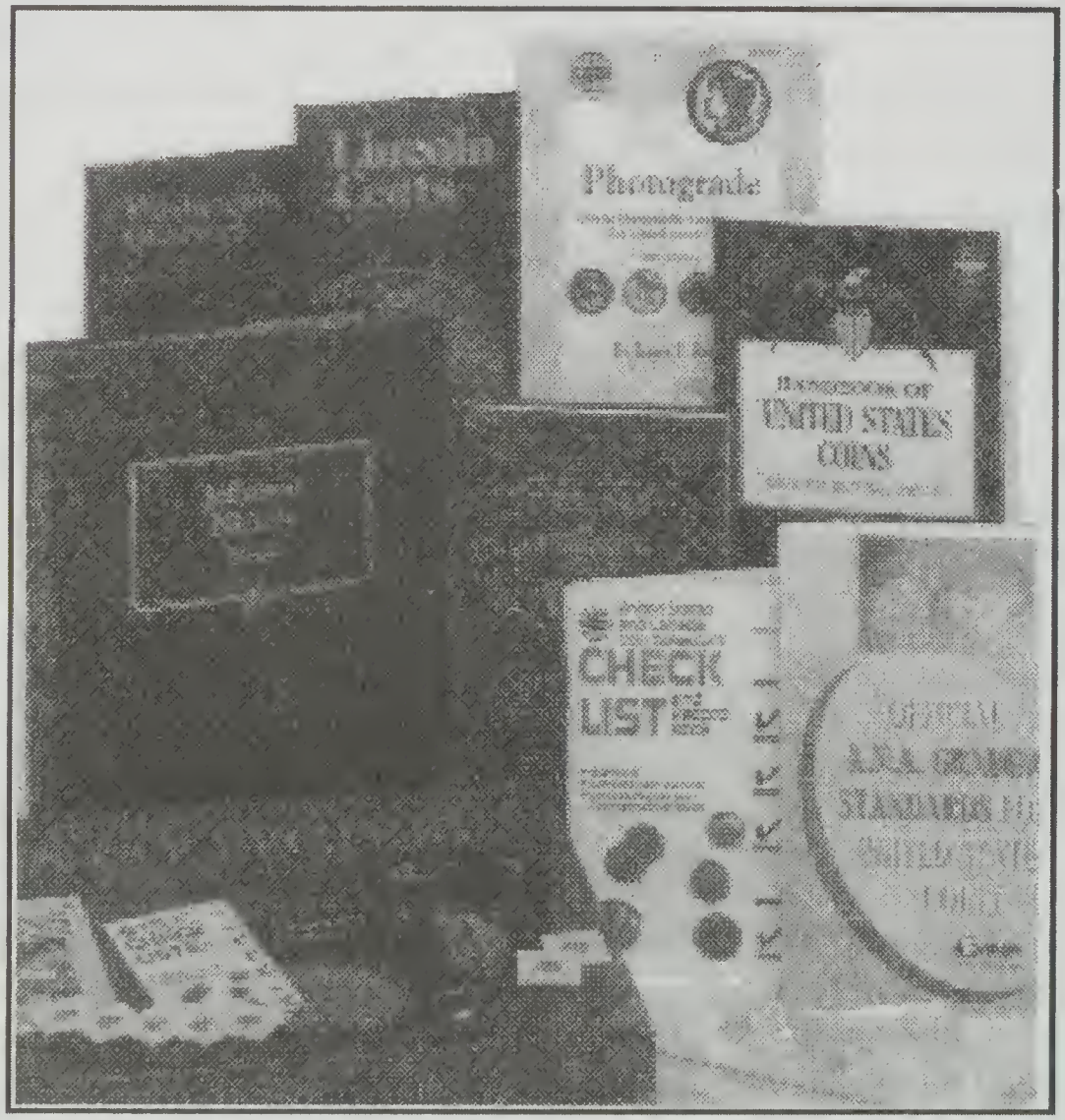

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Kissi Kilindi Money

by Robert D. Leonard Jr.

The African Iron Age

Africa can lay claim to the invention of iron smelting, based on recent discoveries in eastern Niger and Egypt. In 1992, Gérard Quéchon et al published a paper indicating that iron was smelted at Egaro in eastern Niger circa 2900-1675 B.C.– a full millennium before it was done in Anatolia, the innovation which led to the Iron Age in the West. In the second millennium, production seems have shifted to nearly Termit, only to be discontinued circa 1130 B.C. Before this, however, other centers arose in central and eastern Africa, and more or less continuous production can be traced in Africa from this time.

But centuries were to pass before iron smelting reached West Africa; it did not emerge until about the middle of the first millennium B.C. Though iron usage spread slowly through the tribes of West Africa, it was made by native smelters and blacksmiths and not generally acquired by trade. By the end of the sixth century A.D. iron had probably penetrated virtually everywhere. Besides weapons and tools, bracelets and other jewelry were made from it. These objects could be traded within each tribe, or to neighboring tribes lacking good ores and smelters. In time, trading goods evolved which were not useful in and of themselves, but were recognizable as uniform and made from good iron. They thus became media of exchange, standards of value, measures of value, and (since wrought iron resists rusting) stores of value—in short, money.

The Kissi Tribe of West Africa

Prior to the 13th century, the ancestors of the modern Kissi tribe are said to have lived in open regions of southern Mali or northern Guinea. To escape the onslaught of Islamic peoples from the expansion of the kingdom of Mali, they fled to the thick tropical forests to the south, where the Muslims were afraid to come. By the 18th century the Kissi were recognized as a distinct tribe in Guinea or Sierra Leone. Early in the 19th century they were living in the wooded hills where they are found today, bounded on the south and north by Mende peoples and on the west, toward the coast, by the Kono tribe. They were reported to have been divided into three kingdoms, each with its own "capital."

In the 20th century the Kissi dwell mostly in small, self-governing villages of no more than about 150 people tucked inside clearings in groves of mango or kola trees in the forests of Guinea and small areas of Liberia and Sierra Leone, near the area where the three countries meet. There are no more kingdoms, but the Kissi are divided into Southern Kissi (all three countries) and Northern Kissi (Guinea and Sierra Leone only). The Kissi are of mixed racial types, including Sudanese and

Guinean, as would be expected from their origin as refugees. Their language is Kisi (Kissi, Gissi, Ghisi, Gisi, Gizi, Gitzi, Kisie, Kissien). About 1965 their population was estimated at 220,000, but has grown significantly since then; as of 1996 it was thought to be 200,000 Southern Kissi and 326,500 Northern Kissi.

Western visitors have consistently characterized the Kissi ethnic group as primitive. They are primarily farmers. Literacy is estimated at from 3%-20%. Per capita income is $300 per year or less. While about 8% are Muslims and another 5% Christian, the balance practice their traditional religion. They live in constant fear of the supernatural, and wear charms to protect themselves from evil spirits. Religious ceremonies include ancestor worship, sacrifices to small stone idols (made by earlier inhabitants of the area) in the village shrine by the headman, purification rituals (*biriye*) for boys and girls at puberty, and divination with pebbles and sand. They are concerned about witch hunting, since witchcraft is also practiced by sorcerers and witches. The forest area adjacent to their village is considered sacred and never cultivated or cleared.

Kilindi—the "Kissi Penny"

Kissi superstition extended to their money as well. In the 19th century the Kissi and Toma tribes used glass lozenges as a medium of exchange. But about 1860-1900 Kissi blacksmiths began to make long iron rods in such a way that the quality of the iron was self-evident from their manufacture: half was hammered, and half was twisted; the hammered end was drawn to points, and the twisted end was sharpened into a blade. If iron can be worked in these four ways it is obviously of good quality. But the blacksmiths did not rely upon the quality of their metal or workmanship, fine as it was, to insure circulation—they gave each rod a "soul," which would be lost if it were broken. These iron rods were called *kilindi*.

Faced with competition such as this the glass lozenge currency was entirely driven out of circulation by 1913. The earliest *kilindi* were up to 30 inches long (B.M. Dept. of Ethnography Object No. 2744) and were twisted over only about half their length, with the hammered half broad and swordlike and the flat pointed end up to 4-¾" wide. The end with two points was called a *kodo*, "foot," and the blade end a *nileng*, "ear." In Sierra Leone the "ear" was later called a "wing," so that—with a wing and a foot—the money could move about!

From the beginning the Kissi were very particular about accepting *kilindi* and refused any having the least imperfection. Seeing both ends in place assured that the piece was of its original length and had not been "clipped," in much the same way that a milled edge protects the metal content of gold and silver coins. And, of course, if either end broke, the *kilindi* lost its soul, and had to be reincarnated by the "medicine man" of the tribe; a small fee was charged for this service.

Notwithstanding these concerns, the blacksmiths themselves debased *kilindi* by making narrower and shorter pieces. The broad hammered section near the "foot" became thinner very quickly; the specimen in the Knox Collection of the Buffalo Museum of Science, acquired before 1936, has one scarcely twice as wide as the twisted end. Thereafter the width became uniform from end to end. While specimens collected in the 19th century are a minimum of 26 inches long (B.M. Dept. of Ethnography Object No. 2742), the longest specimen offered in the 20th century is only 21-½ inches long. When Dora Earthy visited the Kissi tribe in the winter of 1932 while doing research on child life for the "Save the Children" Fund, she saw *kilindi* "about a foot and a half long." Quiggin, writing in 1949, gave the range of lengths as 16 to 18 inches, but Gibbs was aware of pieces as short as 12 inches in 1944. Pieces only 8 inches long are first mentioned about 1968, and by 1998 the average length had drifted down to 10 inches or less.

Kilindi were so popular that they were accepted as money by other tribes, including the Gbande (Bande), Mende, Kpelle, Loma (Lorma), and Gola of Liberia. They were seen in large quantity in all markets in the area in the mid-1930's. But gradually the Colonial governments and Liberia brought in Western-style coinage and drove them out of circulation. The French first introduced silver one franc coins (Yeoman 63) about 1919, and these were used up to about 1931. One and two shilling coins of British West Africa (Yeoman 16 and 17) began to appear in the native markets around 1925 and gradually replaced French currency in Liberia. They were called "palm tree money" from the design of a palm tree on the reverse. Liberian cents were also used for small change.

In 1937 the District Commissioner at Voinjama, Liberia's provisional capital, prohibited the use of *kilindi* in payment of the hut tax. Three years later, Honorable C. C. Dennis, full District Commissioner, announced that they would no longer be acceptable in payment of *any* tax, fine, or government debt. Thousands of *kilindi* were redeemed and beaten into tools for road construction. But they remained in circulation in local markets due to their intrinsic value. It took the "Hitler War" to hasten their downfall; U.S. currency was made legal tender in Liberia in September 1943, and this "airport money" was paid to Kissi tribesmen building Robert's Field near Monrovia. They were told to convert all their "palm tree money" to "airport money," and found the new money more portable and readily convertible into anything.

Even so, a cow was sold in the middle 1940's for a huge pile of *kilindi*, and they were still used for purchases at the Sunday market in Koindu, where the borders of French Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia came together, in the early 1950's. As late as 1957 both Wear and Sigler wrote that they were still in circulation, but their information may have been dated. *Kilindi* were certainly no longer used for money by 1960.

Because *kilindi* were of comparatively low value they were generally tied in bundles of 20. About 1910 a cow could be purchased for 100 bundles, a virgin bride for 200, or a slave for 300. Their purchasing power had apparently increased by 1918, when the price of a cow had dropped to 30 to 40 bundles, a wife to 60 to 80 (still twice as expensive as a cow!), and a slave to 100 or 200 bundles. Native salt cost three *kilindi* per package, leading to another unit of account, *kpoloi* ("a salt"), equal to three pieces. A yard-long piece of native cloth (woven in a strip only four inches wide), 20 oranges, or several kola nuts cost two *kilindi*, and a child's loincloth only a single piece.

Kilindi also acquired an exchange value in terms of Western coins. The French franc was worth 40 to 50 pieces in 1919, and from 1925 to 1929 a bundle of 20 pieces was equal to a shilling (1 *kilindi* = only 60% of a penny). As the government rejected *kilindi* for various payments and began to regulate the minimum wage for day labor (in Liberian cents), their value declined further. Earthy reported an exchange rate of 40 to 45 to the shilling (winter of 1932), and Quiggin (1949) 46 or 48 to the West African shilling, or only about a farthing each. But the value depended on whether it was tax season or not; when *kilindi* were prohibited for tax use, the natives needed to buy British West Africa silver coins to pay their taxes with them, dropping their value to ½ Liberian cent. After taxes were paid *kilindi* increased in value 20%. One report of *kilindi* being worth exactly a "penny" comes from 1938, when a dozen were said to be worth a shilling at the Kailahun market in Sierra Leone.

After *kilindi* ceased to circulate as money they continued to be in demand as fetishes. A bundle of seven tied together "foot and ear" and pegged to the dirt floor just inside a man's door sill will make his wives obey him, the Kissi believe. Similar bundles can give their owner paramount authority in speaking. Another construction counters the evil effects of an enemy's fetishes. Boiled with leaves in a bucket, they impart the power to repel skin diseases, kill all enemies, receive good things, and attract women. When the boy's bush school (*poro*) or girl's bush school (*sande*) returns to the village after spending a year or more in purification rituals in the forest, the pans of rice for the feast are lined with *kilindi*. They are also required for sacrifices—broken—to spirits and on the death of a chief.

Though hundreds of thousands of *kilindi* were made during their period of usage as money, these continuing ritual uses have created demand for new pieces, and they were still being made as late as the 1960's and probably later. Besides being as short as 8 inches long, these later pieces are susceptible to rust and perhaps made from imported iron instead of native wrought iron. Recent arrivals of "Kissi pennies" in quantity have included large numbers of such later pieces.

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Future CSNS Conventions

2001 - April 5 - 8 ..... Indianapolis, Indiana
2002 - April 25 - 28 ..... Columbus, Ohio
2003 - May 1 - 4 ..... St. Louis, Missouri

Note to Club Officials

Interested in hosting a future CSNS Convention? It is not too early to begin thinking of the future. Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your request will receive the prompt attention of the Officers and Board of Governors.

CSNS Spring Convention

April 6-8, 2001

Indianapolis, IN

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Bourse:	Jerry Lebo	(219-753-2489)
Exhibits:	Fran Lockwood	(765-664-6520)

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Club News

Waukesha Coin Club

Waukesha, Wisconsin

The Waukesha Coin Club has commissioned an elongated cent to celebrate their 31st annual coin show, which was held March 19, 2000. A large "2000" is the central design to the elongated coin.

The elongated cent is the tenth in a series, previous years elongates render the club's logo as its central design. Anyone interested in purchasing samples of the elongated coins should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with 50 cents per coin to:

Waukesha Coin Club
1912 Laura Lane
Waukesha, WI 53186-2808

Indian Hill Coin Club

Lake County, Illinois

The Indian Hill Coin Club (Lake County, Illinois) has issued an elongated wooden nickel and a wooden nickel "wampum" for its 2000 coin show. The "wampum" was sold at the show for 50 cents each, and could be used for $1 in trade at the show or at any of the club's meetings. The show was held on Sunday, October 29, 2000 at American Legion Post 771 in Gurnee, Illinois.

Both wooden nickels are available for $1 plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Orders can be sent to:

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Central States Numismatic Society

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I would like to reserve space for an exhibit of numismatic materials consisting of _____ cases for the above convention. My exhibit is to be entered in the class designated by an "X". (Note: No single exhibit may be entered in more than one classification, and only one entry per class). A separate application must be submitted for each exhibit. There is a limit of six (6) cases that total no more than 17 linear feet of table space per exhibit. Allstate cases (22" x 34") will be furnished; however, exhibitors may furnish their own cases provided they do not exceed the 17 linear feet limitation and are no more than five (5) inches deep. All material, including titles, must be inside the exhibit case(s).

CLASSIFICATIONS

- ❑ U.S. coins
- ❑ Gold coins
- ❑ Coins prior to 1500 A.D.
- ❑ Foreign coins after 1500 A.D.
- ❑ All paper money
- ❑ Medals and tokens
- ❑ Miscellaneous
- ❑ Junior (age 17 or under)

Exhibits may be placed Thursday, April 5, 2001, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or Friday, April 6,

My exhibit title is _____

A brief description of my exhibit is _____

_____

Are you a first-time CSNS exhibitor?	❑ Yes	❑ No
Is your exhibited entered:	❑ Competitively	❑ Non-competitively
I have my own cases:	❑ Yes	❑ No - total number of cases I need _____

I agree to abide by all rules and Exhibit Committee decisions necessary to the conduct of the exhibit area and by the decisions of the judges. I recognize and accept my personal liability regarding any loss or damage sustained either directly or indirectly in connection with my exhibit's participation in the Convention.

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A VIP Tour of the Denver Mint

by Leon A. Saryan

I had the good fortune to be able to attend the ANA Summer Seminar this year courtesy of a scholarship from the Milwaukee Numismatic Society. At the conclusion of my stay, a select group of numismatic enthusiasts were treated to a special "VIP" tour of the Denver Mint. The Denver tour certainly ranked as one of the highlights of a great numismatic experience.

Friday July 14 dawned brightly, as it had every other day that week. A busload of about 40 anxious numismatists climbed onto a bus for the 80-minute ride from Colorado Springs to Denver. Unlike the average tourist, we were permitted, by special arrangement, to actually go onto the coining floor of the mint. We were able to observe the coin manufacturing process up close, always under the extremely watchful eyes of pistol-packing United States Mint police officers.

The Denver Mint opened in 1863 as an assay office to serve the needs of gold (and later silver) miners who were moving into Colorado. The first home of the assay office was in the Clark, Gruber & Co. bank building. Gold and silver were assayed and cast into bars for the convenience of the miners. Although it was originally intended to be a branch of the principal mint in Philadelphia, Denver did not achieve that status until 1895. Not until 1906 a suitable building could be erected (in downtown Denver) and equipped for coining operations. The first year's production was about 150 million coins. Today, the Denver Mint is extremely busy, producing about 50 million coins per day.

Our tour was divided into 4 groups of about 10 persons each. We were searched on the way in, and extremely thoroughly searched on the way out. Several times we were cautioned not to touch any items (unless they were shown to us) or to pick up any coins from the floor (and there were many). Any stray coins and change that we brought with us were confiscated on the way in, and purchases made in the gift shop were sealed and delivered to us only after we had left the building.

In spite of the tight security, we all walked out of the mint facility a quarter richer each of us received a souvenir BU 2000-D Maryland quarter and a Denver Mint token in a cello pack, courtesy of the mint guides!

Our guide was Denver Mint official Guillermo Hernandez. He showed and explained to us the various stages of the coining operation: die preparation, blank preparation, annealing, riddling, upsetting, striking, inspection, counting, and bagging. Hernandez explained that, at Denver, the error rate is only about 1 per 1000 coins. In other words, out of 1000 strikes, 999 are acceptable for use. While we were on the coining floor, we had a chance to see just a few misstruck pieces.

You would think that this is a pretty good error rate for a factory producing 50 million products a day, but mostly the numismatists in our group wanted to see the screw-ups. Being able to see and hold the really big mistakes was undoubtedly the highlight of the day. When we reached the conference room at the end of our visit, Guillermo brought out examples of three wildly spectacular errors that never reach the outside, but nevertheless illustrate the vagaries of the coin minting process. Photographs were not allowed, but a brief description of each item will be of interest:

1) In 1993, the ejector mechanism in the Press stamping out new Lincoln cents failed to clear the finished coins, jamming the press. Unstruck blank planchets continued to pour into the machine. An inattentive press operator failed to recognize the. problem for about 4 minutes. Meanwhile, the press overheated, and pennies came squeezing out in every direction, forming a molten deformed mass of scrap metal. The hunk of copper and zinc metal that we got to see and hold weighed about 5 pounds, and was about 8 or 10 inches in its greatest dimension. Most of the coins in the mass were unrecognizable, but on one the date 1993-D could beseen, enabling the curiosity to be dated.

2) A jammed ejector which was detected more rapidly was probably the cause of the second error as well. The result was a smaller mass of copper-zinc scrap weighing about half a pound and about three inches across. This mass of squished cents had the appearance of several layers of copper wire, but no recognizably dated coins could be seen in this mass.

3) The third error occurred in 1999. Once again, the error appeared to be caused by a jammed ejector, this time during the striking of Jefferson five-cent pieces. Blanks kept piling into the press, creating another half-pound mass of metal scrap, this time of course consisting of cupro-nickel alloy. The resulting hunk of metal showed examples of broadstruck and brockage coins, all deformed into an irregular mass. One dated coin, a well-struck and attractively toned 1999-D nickel, still remains in the center of the mass, firmly attached to the surrounding scrap.

The New Denver Mint, c. 1906 Denver Public Library Western History Department

Inevitably, the question of the recently discovered Philadelphia mint mule (a Washington quarter obverse die muled with a Sacajawea dollar reverse) came up. We were assured that such a thing

could never happen in Denver where, we were told, they take pride in their work, etc. etc. Mint personnel who were asked about this could not understand how it could have happened.

The big problem at Denver seems to be crowding on the coining floor. Coinage output is at an all-time high. The minting floor was jammed with bins of blanks and finished coins, so much so that there was barely enough room for forklifts to maneuver. Every available bit of space was being utilized. In this kind of situation, accidents and errors are bound to happen, and probably with greater frequency.

Denver is clearly cramped for space, and a lot of it is taken up making Lincoln cents that cost about 0.8 cents each to produce. Those who don't want to see the cent pass into oblivion will oppose this suggestion, but from the standpoint of the taxpayer the easiest solution would be to abandon or limit the manufacture of cents (and paper dollars for that matter). If the cent is retained, Denver will need an annex or an off-site facility if it is to continue meeting the increasing demand for coins.

I visited the Philadelphia Mint in 1997, where there seemed to be plenty of space for coining operations. The mint exhibit displays at Philadelphia are more extensive, with examples of two centuries of mint medals and coins proudly displayed in dozens of glass cases. The gift shop in Philadelphia also boasted a more extensive selection of souvenirs. At Denver, however, I had the unique opportunity to hand-strike some large and attractive Denver mint medals in copper for just $2.50 each.

Following our visit to the mint, we enjoyed a pleasant guided bus tour of downtown Denver. We were also treated to a gourmet luncheon at the Brown Palace, one of America's grand old hotels, before returning to Colorado Springs. It was a fine way to end a week filled with numismatic education.

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Show Calendar

Show Chairmen are invited to send announcements of upcoming coin shows in the Central States region. The Show Calendar is intended to assist collectors and dealers in planning their show attendance. It is also designed to aid show sponsors in avoiding date conflicts. Show dates should be sent 6 to 12 months in advance. Please include the city where the show will be held, official name of the show, show dates and location, as well as the name, address, and phone number of the show our bourse chairman. Send to: **Karen Jach, P.O. Box 210766, Milwaukee, WI 53221**.

2000 Calendar

November 18: Louisville, Kentucky
Derby City Coin Club Fall Show, Carpenters Local #64 Union Hall, 4017 Dixie Highway, Louisville. Herb Schmidt, 2614 Lomond Dr., Louisville, KY 40216, (502) 447-7700.

December 10: Iowa City/Coralville, Iowa
Old Capitol Coin Club Annual Show, Ramada Inn, (exit 240 on I-80) Iowa City. T. D. Robertson, P.O. Box 3003, Iowa City, IA 52244-3003, (319) 351-2512.

2001 Calendar

January 28: Muncie, Indiana
Muncie Coin and Stamp Club 44th Annual Show, Muncie Horizon Convention Center, 401 S. High St., Muncie. Ray Saylor, (765) 288-0371.

February 25: Racine, Wisconsin
Racine Numismatic Society 63rd Annual Coin and Collectible Show, South Hills Country Club, 3047 Highway 94-Frontage Rd. (east side of I-94), Franksville. Jerome Binsfeld, Box 580191, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158, (262) 654-6272.

March 11: Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Cedar Rapids Coin Club Annual Show, Sheraton Four Points Hotel, 525 33rd Ave. S.W., Cedar Rapids. Nevin Roberts, 3065 19th Ave., Marion, IA 52302, (319) 377-6974.

March 18: Waukesha, Wisconsin
Waukesha Coin Club 32nd Annual Coin Show, Waukesha Elks Lodge, 2301 Springdale Dr., Waukesha.

March 25: Marion, Indiana
Marion Coin Club 43rd Annual Show, Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds, State Road 18 East, Marion. Ray Lockwood, P.O. Box 93, Marion, IN 46952, (765) 644-6520.

March 29-31: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
South Shore Coin Club's 36th Annual Coin Show, Four Points Hotel, 4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee. Annette Tramte, 2368 S. 59th St., West Allis, WI 53219, (414) 541-7028.

April 5-8: Indianapolis, Indiana
Central States Numismatic Society's 62nd Annual Convention. Jerry Lebo, P.O. Box 841, Logansport, IN 46947, (219) 753-2489.

April 26-29: Rosemont, Illinois
26th Annual Chicago International Coin Fair, Ramada Plaza Hotel O'Hare, 6600 N. Manheim Rd. Kevin Foley, Box 573, Milwaukee, WI 53201, (414) 421-3484.

PAN Coin Shows

May 11-13, 2001
Dealers: Setup May 10, 4-8 p.m. $25 early bird fee

October 26-28, 2001
Dealers: Setup October 25, 4-8 p.m.

May 10-12, 2002
Dealers: Setup May 9, 4-8 p.m. $25 early bird fee

October 25-27, 2002
Dealers: Setup October 24, 4-8 p.m.

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Exhibit Awards

CSNS Fall Convention Hosted by ILNA

September 8-10, 2000 - Harvey, Illinois

Best of Show

Bradley Ream - "Late Renaissance Coins"

First Place

U.S. Coins & Paper: Sharon Kyzivat - "Sharon Notes"
Miscellaneous: Raymond Dillard - "Chicago World's Fair Elongated Coins"
Foreign: Donald Dool - "Phrygian Caps in Copper"
Junior: Michelle Dennany - "Lincoln Type Coins"

Second Place

U.S. Coins & Paper: Jennifer Kuester - "U.S. Error Notes"
Miscellaneous: Carl Wolfe - "Chicago Numismatic Society Medals"
Foreign: Mike Dennany - "Type Coins of Ireland"

Third Place

U.S. Coins & Paper: Bill Bearley - "The Might Have Been Motto"
Miscellaneous: Robert Hatfield - "Commemorate Red Plaque"
Foreign: Robert Hatfield - "Reference to Roman Coins"

Fourth Place

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A Golden Doorstop

by Dr. Walt Ostromecki, NLG

What would you do if your twelve-year-old son or daughter brought home a huge shiny rock found while playing at a local fishing hole? Make him or her take it back? Toss it out in the yard or into the trash? Or would you keep it say by the front door as a memento and for use as a decorative doorstop? Well, numismatic lore tells us that the Reed family of Cabarrus County, North Carolina did just that!

One summer Sunday morning in 1799, twelve-year-old Conrad Reed brought home an unusual yellow rock that he picked up while fishing at a local pond. Finding its coloring unique and its weight extraordinarily heavy for its size, his parents decided to keep it and use it as a decorative door stop. The stone soon became an interesting conversation piece among friends and neighbors.

In early 1802, Mr. Reed's curiosity finally got the best of him. He took the 17pound (7.65 kilogram) rock to a knowledgeable local jeweler named Johnson. Mr. Johnson was flabbergasted to discover "this big hunk of almost pure gold was being used as a doorstop." Without hesitation he offered to pay Mr. Reed top dollar.

. Word of Mr. Reed's golden discovery spread like wildfire. His son's find may have generated the nation's first gold rush and eventually led to further exploration of the southern gold region from North Carolina to Georgia; not to mention the subsequent minting of the first private gold coin issues under the Constitution by Templeton Reid (no relation), a jeweler-gunsmith, in Milledgeville, Georgia, in July of 1830. Severely criticized by newspapers of the day, he closed his mint before the end of October 1830. The gold coinage total amounted to about 1,600 pieces in three denominations: $2.50, $5.00 & $10.00.

Mr. Reed's "17-pound gold nugget" find in North Carolina wasn't really surprising. However, its discovery by a twelve-year-old boy and subsequent use as a "pretty and colorful doorstop" was unique. Thanks primarily to Rutherford County, the state was already known as "golden state, "because it was a principal source of the nation's gold supply from 1790 to 1834." Sorry California! Mines in the region helped ease the Philadelphia Mint's bullion shortage in the 1830's.

Because of the abundance of gold, two German metallurgists, Christopher and Augustus Bechtler, established their "private" mint at Rutherfordton, North Carolina in 1830. They issued gold coins in denominations of $1.00 (a first as the US Mint did not issue the denomination until 1849); $2.50 & $5.00. Coinage production lasted until 1852. Their business venture was more than that. It was "a golden door stopping event" in American numismatic history!

On June 28, 1834, Congress passed a new law reducing the weight of standard gold, which had the effect of placing our money on the gold standard. Trade and finance were greatly benefited by this act, which also proved a boon to the gold mines of Georgia and North Carolina. Branch US mints at Dahlonega, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina were established in 1838 to handle the newly mined gold at the source. With the dollar price of gold being officially set at $20.67 an ounce in 1837, there was nothing "door-stopping" gold coinage production. For collectors today, C & D branch mint coinage are indeed "golden treasures."

Yes, there is a rich historic numismatic legacy which can be directly inferred --if not attributed to-- Reed's golden door stop. There is also a moral to the story, even for "we" collectors today: "When your youngster brings home a large 17-pound pretty rock, consider well its value as "golden curiosity (memento)" worthy of display and use as a doorstop. Who knows what "golden" comments you will receive -- especially from your numismatic friends." At least now I know how to use (and display) my Yap Stone Money. Thank you Mr. Reed for the golden idea!

References

1. The US Mint, Paul Wolman.
2. The Guidebook of US Coins, Richard Yeoman
3. Encyclopedia Americana, 1998, Vol. 20.

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CSNS Scholarship Awards to ANA Summer Seminar

The Central States Numismatic Society is proud to announce the winners of he 2001 ANA Summer Seminar Scholarships. Each winner will receive registration, tuition and travel allowance up to $1,000 so they may participate in the Seminar at Colorado Springs.

Adult Scholarship Winners

Quent Hanson (Omaha, Nebraska)

Hanson In Past-President of the Omaha Coin Club and currently serves as its program director. He is also active in the Wahoo Coin Club, SAC-Midwest Coin Club, Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society, Fremont Coin Club, Lincoln Coin Club, CSNS and ANA.

Quent's collecting specialty is Flying Eagle and Indian Cents with emphasis on high quality Indians. He has written articles for *Longacre's Ledger & Penny Talk*. Quent has entered several competitive exhibits in local and state shows. He has developed an educational program for area coin clubs and elementary schools.

Robert Hatfield (Taylor, Michigan)

Hatfield is an active member of ANA, the Dearborn Coin Club of which he is current President, past-treasurer of the Michigan State Numismatic Society, past-president of the Michigan Token and Medal Society, the Society of Paper Money Collectors, Paper Money Collectors of Michigan, Lincoln Coin Club and the Downriver Numismatic Association.

Bob has been an ANA District Delegate since 1988 and served one term as Governor for Central States. Hatfield has been a competitive exhibitor since 1978 and won many firsts second and third place awards. His articles have appeared in *The Numismatist, Centinel, MichMatist, Paper Money, Rag Picker; The Junk Box, and the Scripta.*

Junior Scholarship Winner

Evan Perrault (Colgate, Wisconsin)

Evan is a 16-year old high school student who has been very active in numismatics for several years. He belongs to ANA, Central States, and the Milwaukee Numismatic Society. Perrault is currently serving as editor of the Milwaukee club newsletter. He has served as assistant chairperson for the annual Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic.

He is an excellent student having won many academic honors in math, forensics, music, literature, foreign language, and is an avid golfer and saxophone player. Evan has exhibited coins competitively for the past three years at local, regional and national levels, given numerous talks on coins to his local club and school, and has authored over ten articles on various numismatic topics.

The Board of Governors and officers of Central States salutes Quent, Bob and Evan for their many accomplishments in our great hobby, and wishes them future successes. Have a great time in Colorado Springs!!

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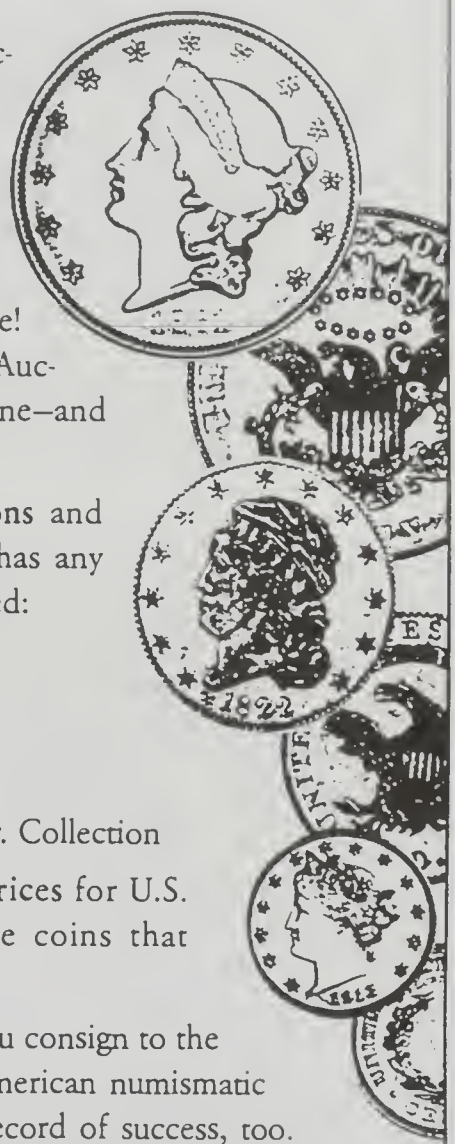

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Fall Convention Photo Highlights

September 8-10, 2000 (Harvey, Illinois)

Donna and Kermit Wasmer received their Numismatic Ambassador Award from *Numismatic News* Joel Edler.

Numismatic Ambassadors in attendance at the fall board meeting were: (front row) Ray Dillard, Helen Cambody Lebo, Donna Wasmer, Florence Schook, Fran Lockwood, (back row) Don Charters, Jerry Lebo, Kermit Wasmer, Harry Tileston, Marv Mericle, Ray Lockwood, and Jim Jach.

Jim Jach, CSNS Editor, received the American Numismatic Association's 2000 award for First Place Outstanding Regional Numismatic Publication delievered by CSNS President, Ray Lockwood.

(Photos courtesy of Numismatic Ambassador, Rollie Finner.)

Fran Lockwood receives the Ray O. Lefman CSNS Medal of Merit from CSNS Secretary-Treasurer, Jerry Lebo.

CSNS President Ray Lockwood receives an Honorary Kentucky Colonel award from CSNS Vice President, Harry Tileston.

CSNS Secretary-Treasurer, Jerry Lebo, receives an Honorary Kentucky Colonel award from CSNS Vice President, Harry Tileston.

Joe Edler, Florence Schook, Kermit Wasmer, Patti Finner, Jack Huggins, Ray Lockwood, and Clayton Hagemann posed for a photo under the CSNS show banner.

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(Website courtesy ANA)

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Articles from contributors less than 18 years old are entered in competition for the Daniel Parker Literary Award. Articles are to be typed. You may also submit a copy on disk, identified with the name and version of software used. If a disk is submitted, double-spaced printout must accompany the disk. Articles should contain accurate information. Clear photos or drawsing to help illustrate your subject are also accepted.

If you have a piece you would like to submit for possible publication, contact *The Centinel* editors:

Jim and Karen Jach
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Whitman Handbook Reaches 58th Annual Edition

St. Martin's Press has announced publication of the 58h annual edition of R. S. Yeoman's *Handbook of United States Coins*, popularly known as the Blue Book. The *Handbook of United States Coins* is a 208-page reference that lists average wholesale values for all United States coins. It is companion to the Whitman *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, known as the Red Book, which contains detailed information on the average retail prices of coins. Both books have been published in updated versions each year for more than a half century. They are both widely used standard price references and a source of technical information for all United States coins.

Kenneth Bressett, who has edited the Blue Book for the past 37 years, has once again surveyed the coin marketplace for pricing information. This year approximately 60 coin dealers have contributed to the pricing data. The values shown are an average of what dealers are willing to pay for U.S. coins in up to seven different grades of condition. Coin dealers participating in the survey cover all aspects of the trade from individuals to major establishments. Added features in the new edition include listings of all the issued Statehood quarters, commemorative coins, and the Sacagawea dollars.

The 2001 edition reflects a general interest in the coin hobby with strong demand for basic "type" coins and "key" dates. Some of the silver and gold prices are down this year because of the lower values of bullion. Values show a lower demand for some of the early date coins in less than *Fine* grade condition, while those of highest quality moved to new highs. Rare mintmark gold was one outstanding area of price increases where many pieces went up dramatically in value. Colonial and Territorial gold coins are also priced higher.

In addition to pricing information, the Blue Book includes historical data, mintage records, and statistics for all regular issue U.S. coins, Colonial issues, and Territorial gold pieces. Other listings include commemorative coins and gold, platinum, and silver bullion pieces. Helpful commentary is given on the basics of collecting as a hobby, how to care for coins, and major things to look for in identification.

The 2001 *Handbook of United States Coins* is published by St. Martin's Press (New York, NY) and is available from your local coin dealers, hobby shops, or wherever books are sold. The suggested retail price for this soft cover edition is $8.95.

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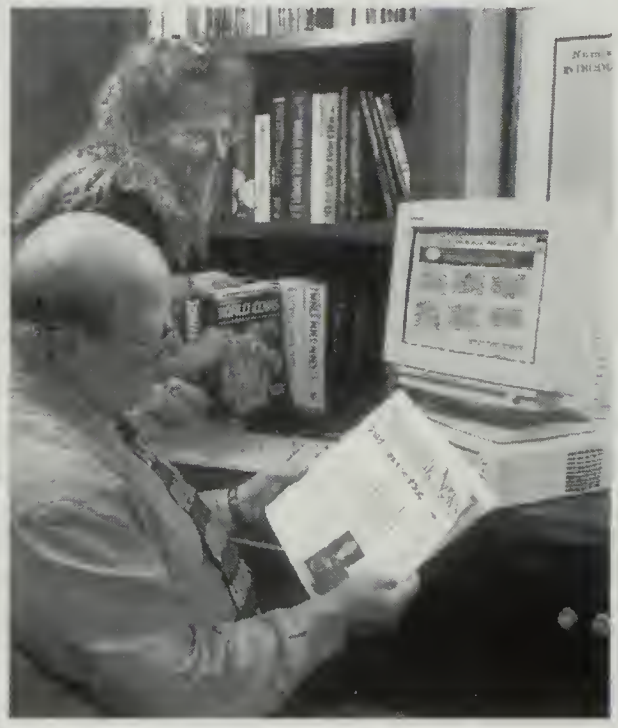

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